

First, let us not forget that the Medicare program was first created because the private industry couldn't provide meaningful affordable health insurance to our Nation's seniors. Even more recent attempts to use private plans have failed. Between 1999 and 2003, 2,400,000 beneficiaries lost Medicare+Choice coverage, as health plans scaled back or ended their participation in the program.

For seniors who rely on continuity of coverage, changing plans and doctors every year is really not an option. And in many areas of the country, especially the more rural areas, HMOs have been pulling out and many seniors do not have an HMO option. And claims that this will really save any money are deceptive at best. According to CBO, this whole program is expected to save at best \$1,600,000,000 over the next 10 years—less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent of Medicare spending over that period.

It does not add one year to the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund. So why this grant experiment? What's to gain by moving Medicare from the traditional government run program that has worked so well for the better part of the past four decades?

I would say nothing. There is nothing to gain by this provision. But there is plenty to lose. For the seniors who rely on this program to get the health care services they need, they could lose everything. Economic security, quality of life, their health, and even their lives. All of this for an ideological effort to dismantle the program by the very opponents who for years have wanted the program to "wither on the vine."

This is unacceptable Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to reject privatization efforts, support the Capps Motion to Instruct, and stand up for our Nation's seniors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 2003, I missed rollcall votes no. 602 and 603 due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on these votes.

TRIBUTE TO LIBRARY CORPORATION OF INWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Library Corporation of Inwood, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the inter-

national community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, The Library Corporation has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, The Library Corporation has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud The Library Corporation for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of The Library Corporation, and I offer them as an example to small- and medium-sized enterprises everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE BENNETT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the Member who currently represents Florida's third congressional district, I am proud to serve the area represented by my honorable predecessor, Charlie Bennett. He was truly a role model for anyone interested in public service. Regarded as among the most remarkable national leaders, his service to our Nation and its citizens remains memorable to this day.

Congressman Charlie Bennett was a great American who earned utmost respect in Congress. We can't even begin to thank him for what he did for us in this area and for the military. To me, Charlie Bennett is the one most responsible for making Jacksonville the military powerhouse it is today. And on a national level, Congressman Bennett, who served as the 2nd Ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, is owed a great deal of gratitude for making the U.S. military the fine institution it is today.

A role model not only as a politician, but also for those with physical disabilities, his list of accomplishments in his remarkable 44 years in Congress is seemingly endless. Even though he was stricken with polio and walked with crutches, the longest serving congressman from Florida remarkably never missed a vote. Perhaps the most noteworthy advocate for ethical reforms in Congress, he sponsored legislation that created the House Ethics Committee, and served as its first chairman.

Among the most noteworthy of his successes includes providing a hostile fire/imminent danger pay to our Nation's soldiers during combat, and making "In God We Trust" the U.S. motto. He also was instrumental in creating a strict code of ethics for government service, for co-sponsoring the Americans With Disabilities Act, for creating the Caroline National Memorial, and the Timucuan Preserve. In addition to his extensive knowledge of politics on a national level, he was also an expert in Florida history, and wrote several books on the subject.

Charlie Bennett will be missed for his service to his fellow man, his friendship and his statesmanship. He was truly the best of the best.

Members who wish to express their respect for Congressman Bennett may do so today at Arlington National Cemetery where his friends

and family are holding a memorial service at 11 a.m.

CELEBRATING THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRY S. REICH BUILDING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Henry S. Reich Building of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, JCCNV.

The JCCNV, located in Fairfax, Virginia, is a social service organization dedicated to enriching lives through spiritual and cultural Jewish programs. The center is open to all, yet aims specifically to meet the needs of the local Jewish community by preserving and promoting the heritage and values of Judaism.

In 1977, an impressive 5,000-person turnout at the First Hanukkah Happening revealed both a need and support for a Jewish Community Center in Northern Virginia. The following March of 1978, the JCCNV first opened on Dorr Avenue with Adele Greenspon as Executive Director, a part-time Program Coordinator, and a part-time secretary.

In 1980, the newly established JCCNV Board of Directors voted to purchase the Commonwealth Christian School on Little River Turnpike to house the Center until a permanent facility could be built. Several years later in 1986, Jeffrey Karatz was appointed the second Executive Director of the JCCNV. Then in the spring of 1989, construction began for the Henry S. Reich building we are celebrating today.

Upon completion in 1990, Governor Douglas Wilder dedicated the Henry S. Reich building. This building since has provided a home for cultural, educational, recreational, and social programming for all ages, faiths, and nationalities. More than 150,000 visit the Center each year, making the JCCNV a key part of the ever-growing Northern Virginia community.

There is a myriad of programming available at the Center including: early childhood, elementary, teen, adult, new immigrant, and senior programs; camping programs; sports, fitness, and aquatics programs; art exhibits; and a JCCNV International Film Festival. The Henry S. Reich building also houses Geshet, the only Jewish Day School in Northern Virginia; The Center Company, the only Jewish professional theatre company in Northern Virginia; and an office of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

In addition, the JCCNV has a history of cooperative ventures with synagogues, local and national Jewish organizations, and Fairfax County schools and hospitals. The overwhelming JCCNV popularity motivated the Center to establish satellite programming in the western suburbs of Reston, Herndon and Springfield.

All things considered, from modest beginnings in 1977, the JCCNV has experienced great success. Its founders envisioned a center of culture, spirituality, learning, exercise, and entertainment; the Henry S. Reich building has helped make this vision a reality.

Through commendable drive and dedication, the JCCNV certainly has made a lasting impact on the Jewish and greater community of Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on 13 years of success in the Henry S. Reich building. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts to uphold Jewish tradition and serve their community.

TRIBUTE TO SPRING CREEK NATURAL FOODS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Spring Creek Natural Foods of Spencer, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Spring Creek Natural Foods has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Spring Creek Natural Foods has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Spring Creek Natural Foods for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Spring Creek Natural Foods, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

IN HONOR OF SGT JUSTIN W. GARVEY AND AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, twice a year we set aside a day to honor our military—Memorial Day to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice—and, Veterans Day to honor all who wore the American uniform.

All across America, in the largest cities, the smallest towns, and the most isolated hamlets, we mark this occasion with speeches and parades. We pay respect to the guardians of our liberties, for as Americans, we are the beneficiaries of their efforts.

Our military men and women are currently engaged in combat—a fight to defend the light of freedom and progress against the darkness of oppression and intolerance. The enemy we face is ruthless, a force that strikes at innocent men, women, and children.

As the guardians of our freedoms, these men and women are owed our respect and

our support. America has a special debt to her veterans, and we have a sacred responsibility to fulfill the promises made to them.

My prayers are with these brave men and women and I wish them success and a safe and quick return home. As so many before them, they are answering the call to defend liberty. It is especially a fitting tribute and expression of gratitude that we acknowledge one of America's true heroes, Sgt. Justin Wrisley Garvey of the 101st Airborne, by naming a bridge in Lewis, New York in honor of his service and sacrifice.

Justin was a man that touched the lives of those who were blessed to know him. I believe that no other statement describing Justin can match that given by his fellow soldier, Sgt. Douglas Norman.

It was the greatest honor to have been able to call Justin my friend. He was a man who had no enemies. His personality attracted anyone who came around him. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to work with him and to be his friend. Though he was only a man, he is everything I want to be as a man. Everyone, who ever met Justin, is better for it. It was an honor to have served with him up to the end, that night. He taught me what a true hero is.

What is also quite a statement is that Sgt. Norman, who survived the attack that took the lives of Sgt. Justin Garvey and Sgt. Jason Jordan, is going to re-enlist in honor of his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, our country operates under principles of freedom, the ability to pursue life, liberty and happiness. Our men and women in uniform serve a tremendous cause. They fight with hope against terror and freedom against oppression. Our enemies will never know freedom, because they are imprisoned by hate; and for that they have already lost.

As we cherish our rights—we should also cherish their provider—the American veteran. Thank you and God bless.

CONGRATULATING WALLACE RILEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate and honor one of Northwest Indiana's most caring and dedicated citizens, Mr. Wallace Riley. Wally has served on the Lake Station City Council for 24 years and his many contributions to Northwest Indiana will be recognized on November 30, 2003, during a celebratory event at the Lake Station Veterans of Foreign Wars Facility.

Wally began contributing to his community at a young age. In 1947, not long after graduating from Hobart High School in 1944 and working at his mother's grocery store, he began building the Liverpool Paint and Hardware building. Within a year and a half he opened the building for business with his wife, Betty Lou Ele and ran the company for 43 years. Wally also served in Civil Defense for two years, and then was named Civic Defense Director for another two years. In 1948, he joined the Liverpool Volunteer Fire Department as a director, and was then made an honorary fireman of the East Gary (now Lake Station)

Fire Department in 1974, and still serves as an active member today. He also donated his garage building to the East Gary Fire Department Battalion for 15 months.

Wally has selflessly contributed to Northwest Indiana in many ways including serving as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman for a total of 13 years, as well as directing and sponsoring the building of a new sidewalk in front of Evans School in Lake Station. He also worked with various Lake County Councilmen to pave many local streets, to widen 35th Avenue, and he has participated in many local projects in Lake Station as a volunteer. He joined the East Gary Chamber of Commerce and served as Director, Vice President, and President during his tenure with the organization.

Although Wally has served on numerous committees and has donated his time throughout his entire life to his Northwest Indiana Community, he has never neglected to provide support and love for his family. Wally and his wife Betty Lou, have four children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Wally Riley has given his time and efforts selflessly to his community and has provided leadership and dedication to all of Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Wallace Riley on his outstanding accomplishments throughout his life. His career of service to his community is worthy of the highest commendation.

TRIBUTE TO PREISER SCIENTIFIC OF ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Preiser Scientific of St. Albans, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Preiser Scientific has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Preiser Scientific has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Preiser Scientific for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Preiser Scientific, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.